

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 A-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

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R 170548Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4809

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 4868

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PINS, LA, US, XX

SUMMARY: WHILE MOST OF OUR ATTENTION AND THAT OF THE PRESS
CORPS HAS BEEN RIVETED ON THE HARASSMENT OF THE U.S. MISSION
IN LAOS, OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZA-
TION PERSONNEL, AND AMERICAN AND OTHER VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
HAVE ENCOUNTERED SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN LESSER DEGREE. IT IS
INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THE LAO COMMUNISTS WANT NO OFFICIAL
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PERSONNEL OF ANY NON-COMMUNIST MISSION STATIONED OUTSIDE THE

CAPITALS; LITTLE OR NO DOMESTIC TRAVEL BY MEMBERS OF SUCH MISSIONS; LIMITATIONS ON SIZE AND LOCATIONS OF OUR MISSION, AND PROBABLY OF OTHERS; AND AT LEAST A WEEDING-OUT OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. THE LAO COMMUNISTS APPEAR INTENT ON ESTABLISHING A TIGHT SYSTEM OF ORGANIZATION AND CONTROL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND THEY DO NOT WANT FOREIGNERS OBSERVING OR INTERFERING WITH THE PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT TIME WHEN EMBASSY'S GSO AND STAFF HOUSING COMPOUNDS REMAIN OCCUPIED BY "PROTESTORS" AND PGNU MIXED POLICE (PATHET LAO), WE HAVE OF NECESSITY CONCENTRATED OUR ENERGIES ON OUR OWN PROBLEMS AND PERHAPS FAILED TO REPORT ADEQUATELY ON THE LESSER BUT SIMILAR EXPERIENCES OF OTHER MISSIONS AND VARIOUS PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS.

2. NOW THAT THEY DOMINATE THE PGNU AND ARE CONSOLIDATING THEIR CONTROL OF THE FORMER "VIENTIANE-SIDE ZONE" OF LAOS, THE LAO COMMUNISTS DO NOT WANT FOREIGN OBSERVERS STATIONED OUTSIDE OF VIENTIANE. (THERE MAY PERHAPS BE AN EXCEPTION FOR LUANG PRABANG, THE ROYAL CAPITAL, BUT THIS REMAINS TO BE SEEN). WITHIN PAST TWO TO THREE WEEKS, THE PGNU HAS BROUGHT ABOUT THE CLOSURE OF ALL THREE THAI CONSULATES, BEGINNING WITH PAKSE (WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN MOST PERSISTENT REPORTS OF PATHET LAO-STUDENT TENSIONS AND INCIDENTS) AND LATER INCLUDING THE THAI POSTS AT SAVANNAKHET AND BAN HOU EI SAI. PERSONNEL OF THESE POSTS HAVE EITHER BEEN WITHDRAWN TO THAILAND OR BROUGHT IN TO VIENTIANE. SIMULTANEOUSLY, LAO NEWS MEDIA HAVE CRITICIZED THAILAND FOR NEO-COLONIALISM, ALLEGED SUPPORT TO LAO "REACTIONARIES" WHO HAVE TAKEN REFUGE THERE, ETC.

3. NOW THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION IS GETTING THE SAME TREATMENT. THE PGNU'S "BASTILLE DAY PRESENT" TO FRANCE WAS AN ORDER (ACTUALLY ISSUED JULY 12) TO THE THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF FRENCH MILITARY (TRAINING) MISSION (MMF) TO DEPART PAKSE WITHIN 24 HOURS OR LOSE "GUARANTEE" OF THEIR SAFETY. THE MMF PERSONNEL IN SAVANNAKHET AND LUANG PRABANG -- SMALL NUMBERS IN EACH CASE -- WILL

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PROBABLY BE NEXT, AND THE FUTURE OF THE MISSION AS A WHOLE IS OBVIOUSLY IN DOUBT. (IN LATE 1974 IT HAD A TOTAL OF 75 TO 80 OFFICERS AND NCO'S, PLUS DEPENDENTS; ABOUT HALF OF THESE WERE SCHEDULED TO DEPART EACH SUMMER UPON COMPLETION OF TWO-YEAR TOURS. WE UNDERSTAND THE GOF DOES NOT PLAN TO REPLACE THESE WHO LEFT THIS SUMMER AND THE MMF IS THUS BEING REDUCED BY HEAVY ATTRITION).

4. OTHER COUNTRIES ARE NOT IMMUNE: TEN JAPANESE OVERSEAS COOPERATION VOLUNTEERS STATIONED AT SAVANNAKHET HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN "ASKED" BY THE LAO TO LEAVE NO LATER THAN JULY 25. A YOUNG BRITISHER TRYING TO REVITALIZE THE LOCAL SILK INDUSTRY ON AN ISLAND IN THE MEKONG NEAR PAKSE WAS ORDERED IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY TO CEASE OPERATIONS AND LEAVE THE PAKSE AREA. A CANADIAN WOMAN WORKING AT THE NATIONAL ORTHOPEDIC CENTER IN VIENTIANE WAS RECENTLY ACCUSED BY TWO LAO CO-WORKERS OF "SPYING FOR THE CIA." THE PGNU APPEARS TO BE PREPARING TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, WHICH WITHDREW ITS EMBASSY STAFF ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. THE LIST WILL PROBABLY GROW IN COMING WEEKS.

5. TRAVEL OUTSIDE VIENTIANE IS BEING RESTRICTED TOO. CASE OF AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR'S ATTEMPT TO VISIT PAKSE IN MID-JUNE WAS REPORTED IN VIENTIANE 4360 (NOTAL). MORE RECENTLY, AS ALREADY REPORTED OTHER CHANNELS, TWO BRITISH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES ATTEMPTING TO VISIT TWO COMPATRIOTS THEN JAILED IN VANG VIENG WERE TURNED BACK 20 KILOMETERS SHORT OF THEIR DESTINATION, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE ROUTE 13 WAS CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC. THEY ALSO ESTABLISHED, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR DOCUMENTATION FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE MIXED POLICE IN VIENTIANE WOULD HAVE DONE THEM NO GOOD ANYWAY SINCE TROOPS AT CHECKPOINT RECOGNIZED ONLY ORDERS FROM LPF HEADQUARTERS IN SAM NEUA. (AUSTRALIANS WERE TOLD ESSENTIALLY THE SAME THING IN PAKSE.) DIPLOMATS OF NUMEROUS COUNTRIES, INCLUDING BRITAIN, THAILAND AND MALAYSIA, HAVE BEEN STOPPED, SEARCHED, AND EVEN TURNED BACK AT CHECKPOINTS AND AT THE THA DEUA FERRY CROSSING TO THAILAND. ONE VERNACULAR DAILY CARRIED A "WARNING" LAST WEEK THAT THE AUSTRALIANS WERE CLOSELY ALLIED WITH THE USG AND THE CIA.

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